

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1179

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE BELGIUM PRIORITY

CINCMAC SCOTT AFB IL PRIORITY

21 AF MCGUIRE AFB NJ PRIORITY

AMAMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 2566

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LOME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUMBUMBASHI PRIORITY

CINCUSAFFE RAMSTEIN AFB GER PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANGUI PRIORITY

UNCLAS LIBREVILLE 1586

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: MASS, CG, GB

SUBJECT: DEPARTURE OF GABONESE TROOPS FOR SHABA

REF: LIBREVILLE 1554

1. FOLLOWING DEPARTURE OF GABONESE CONTINGENT TO SHABA

NIGHT OF JUNE 10-11, GABONESE MEDIA HAVE BEEN GIVING THE

EVENT FULL PLAY. FRONT PAGE STORY IN LOCAL DAILY L'UNION

JUNE 12 IS TYPICAL.

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2. ACCORDING L'UNIONN ZFIRST" DETACHMENT OF GABONESE

PARATROOPERS WHO PART OF "PANAFRICAN" FORCE FOR ZAIRE LEFT

LIBREVILLE FOR ZAIRE NIGHT OF JUNE 11 ABOARD US AIR FORCE

C-141. DETACHMENT COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN ESSONO NDONG.

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF GABONESE ARMED FORCES, GENERAL BA OUMAR
AND AMERICAN AMBASSADOR WERE THERE TO SEE THEM OFF.

3. ACCORDING "OFFICIAL SOURCE" (NOT US) FLIGHT WOULD TAKE FOUR HOURS AND AFTER ARRIVAL LUMBUMBASHI, DETACHMENT WOULD TAKE UP POSITIONS UNDER AN AS YET UNDETERMINED UNIFIED COMMAND IN THE CITY WHERE 2ND FRENCH R.E.P. (REGIMENT ETRANGER DE PARACHUTISTES) WAS STATIONED AFTER "ITS RAID ON KOLWEZI". GABONESE WILL JOIN THEIR MORROCCAN BROTHERS - SOME 1500 - WHILE EQUIVALENT OF SENEGALESE BATTALION WAS EXPECTED ON SUNDAY (JUNE 11) ALSO ABOARD US AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT. OTHER CONTINGENTS ARE EXPECTED SOON FROM TOGO, IVORY COAST AND CAE. MISSION OF THESE TROOPS RESULTS FROM APPEAL FOR "AFRICAN SOLIDARITY" BY PRES BONGO AT BEGINNING OF SHABA HOSTILITIES.TIENKEN

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